

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Environmental Assessment****Expedited Penalty Agreement
(LAC 33:I.801, 803, 805, and 807) (OS054E)**

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allow the Department of Environmental Quality to use emergency procedures to establish rules, and of R. S. 30:2011 and 2074, which allow the department to establish standards, guidelines, and criteria, to promulgate rules and regulations, and to issue compliance schedules, the secretary of the department hereby declares that an emergency action is necessary in order to implement expedited penalty agreements.

This Emergency Rule will abate the delay in correcting minor and moderate violations of the Environmental Quality Act. Delays in enforcement reduce the effectiveness of the action, utilize unnecessary resources, and slow down the enforcement process. In the past three years alone, the Enforcement Division has received 8,139 referrals and has issued 4,259 actions. Currently strained budget and resource issues pose imminent impairment to addressing minor and moderate violations. This Rule will provide an alternative penalty assessment mechanism that the department may utilize, at its discretion, to expedite penalty agreements in appropriate cases. The report to the Governor by the Advisory Task Force on Funding and Efficiency of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality recommended this action as a pilot program. The legislature approved the report and passed Act 1196 in the 2003 Regular Session allowing the department to promulgate rules for the program. This Emergency Rule allows the operation of the pilot program to commence immediately, without the delay and inflexibility of a permanent rule. It will also allow the department to gather information to formulate a long-term rule and to evaluate the environmental and public health benefits and the social and economic costs of such a program in order to justify these requirements for the permanent rule.

This Emergency Rule is effective on March 10, 2004, and shall remain in effect for a maximum of 120 days or until a final rule is promulgated, whichever occurs first. For more information concerning OS054E you may contact the Regulation Development Section at (225) 219-3550.

Adopted this 10th day of March, 2004.

Mike D. McDaniel, Ph.D.
Secretary

Title 33

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Part I. Office of the Secretary

Subpart 1. Departmental Administrative Procedures

Chapter 8. Expedited Penalty Agreement

§801. Definitions

Qualifying Permit Parameter—for the purposes of these regulations: total organic carbon (TOC), chemical oxygen demand (COD), dissolved oxygen (DO), 5-day biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅), 5-day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅), total suspended solids (TSS), fecal coliform, and/or oil and grease.

Expedited Penalty Agreement—a predetermined penalty assessment issued by the department and agreed to by the respondent, which identifies violations of minor or moderate gravity as determined by LAC 33:I.705, caused or allowed by the respondent and occurring on specified dates, in accordance with R.S. 30:2025(D).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular R.S. 30:2025(D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 30:**.

§803. Purpose

A. The purpose of this Chapter is to provide an alternative penalty assessment mechanism that the department may utilize, at its discretion, to expedite penalty assessments in appropriate cases. This Chapter:

1. addresses common violations of minor or moderate gravity;
2. quantifies and assesses penalty amounts for common violations in a consistent, fair, and equitable manner;
3. ensures that the penalty amounts are appropriate, in consideration of the nine factors listed in R.S. 30:2025(E)(3)(a);
4. eliminates economic incentives for noncompliance for common minor and/or moderate violations; and
5. ensures expeditious compliance with environmental regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular R.S. 30:2025(D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 30:**.

§805. Applicability

A. **Limit of Penalty Amount.** The total penalty assessed for the expedited penalty agreement shall not exceed \$1,500 for one violation or \$3,000 for two or more violations per penalty assessed.

B. **Departmental Discretion.** The secretary of the department or his designee, at his sole discretion, may propose an expedited penalty agreement for any violation described in LAC 33:I.807.A and

considered in accordance with Subsection E of this Section. The expedited penalty agreement shall specify that the respondent waives any right to an adjudicatory hearing or judicial review regarding violations identified in the signed expedited penalty agreement. The respondent must concur with and sign the expedited penalty agreement in order to be governed by this Chapter and R.S. 30:2025(D).

C. Notification to the Respondent. The expedited penalty agreement shall serve as notification to the respondent of the assessed penalty amount for the violations identified on the specified dates.

D. Certification by the Respondent. By signing the expedited penalty agreement, the respondent certifies that all cited violations in the expedited penalty agreement have been or will be corrected, and that the assessed penalty amount has been or will be paid, within 30 days of receipt of the expedited penalty agreement.

E. Nine Factors for Consideration. An expedited penalty agreement may be used only when the following criteria for the nine factors for consideration are satisfied.

1. The History of Previous Violations or Repeated Noncompliance. The violation identified in the expedited penalty agreement is not the same as or similar to a violation identified in any compliance order, penalty assessment, settlement agreement, or expedited penalty agreement issued by the department within the previous two years.

2. The Nature and Gravity of the Violation. The violation identified is considered to be minor or moderate with regard to its nature and gravity.

a. The violation identified in the expedited penalty agreement deviates somewhat from the requirements of statutes, regulations, or permit; however, the violation exhibits at least substantial implementation of the requirements.

b. The violation identified is isolated in occurrence and limited in duration.

c. The violation is easily identifiable and corrected.

d. The respondent concurs with the violation identified and agrees to correct the violation identified and any damages caused or allowed by the identified violation within 30 days of receipt of the expedited penalty agreement.

3. The Gross Revenues Generated by the Respondent. By signing the expedited penalty agreement, the respondent agrees that sufficient gross revenues exist to pay the assessed penalty and correct the violation identified in the expedited penalty agreement within 30 days of receipt of the expedited penalty agreement.

4. The Degree of Culpability, Recalcitrance, Defiance, or Indifference to Regulations or Orders. The respondent is culpable for the violation identified, but has not shown recalcitrance, defiance, or extreme indifference to regulations or orders. Willingness to sign an expedited penalty agreement and correct the identified violation within the specified timeframe demonstrates respect for the regulations and a willingness to comply.

5. The Monetary Benefits Realized Through Noncompliance. The respondent's monetary benefit from noncompliance is not considered to be significant with regard to the violation identified. The respondent's monetary benefit from noncompliance for the violation identified shall not exceed the assessed penalty amount for the violation identified. The intent of these regulations is to eliminate economic incentives for noncompliance.

6. The Degree of Risk to Human Health or Property Caused by the Violation. The violation identified does not present actual harm or substantial risk of harm to the environment or public health. The violation identified is isolated in occurrence or administrative in nature, and the violation identified has no measurable detrimental effect on the environment or public health.

7. Whether the Noncompliance or Violation and the Surrounding Circumstances Were Immediately Reported to the Department and Whether the Violation or Noncompliance Was Concealed or There Was an Attempt to Conceal by the Person Charged. Depending upon the type of violation, failure to report may or may not be applicable to this factor. If the respondent concealed or attempted to conceal any violation, the violation shall not qualify for consideration under these regulations.

8. Whether the Person Charged Has Failed to Mitigate or to Make a Reasonable Attempt to Mitigate the Damages Caused by the Noncompliance or Violation. By signing the expedited penalty agreement, the respondent states that the violation identified and the resulting damages, if any, have been or will be corrected. Violations considered for expedited penalty agreements are, by nature, easily identified and corrected. Damages caused by any violation identified are expected to be nonexistent or minimal.

9. The Costs Of Bringing and Prosecuting an Enforcement Action, Such as Staff Time, Equipment Use, Hearing Records, and Expert Assistance. Enforcement costs for the expedited penalty agreement are considered minimal. Enforcement costs for individual violations are covered with the penalty amount set forth for each violation in LAC 33:I.807.

F. Schedule. The respondent must return the signed expedited penalty agreement and payment for the assessed amount to the department within 30 days of the respondent's receipt of the expedited penalty agreement. If the department has not received the signed expedited penalty agreement and payment for the assessed amount by the close of business on the thirtieth day after the respondent's receipt of the expedited penalty agreement, the expedited penalty agreement may be withdrawn at the department's discretion.

G. Extensions. The department, at its discretion, may grant one 30-day extension in order for the respondent to correct the violation cited in the expedited penalty agreement. In order to receive an extension, the respondent must submit a request, in writing, and satisfactorily demonstrate to the department that compliance with the cited violation is technically infeasible or impracticable within the initial 30-day period for compliance.

H. Additional Rights of the Department

1. If the respondent signs the expedited penalty agreement, but fails to correct the violation identified, pay the assessed amount, or correct any damages caused or allowed by the cited violation within the specified timeframe, the department may issue additional enforcement actions including, but not limited to, a civil penalty assessment and may take any other action authorized by law to enforce the terms of the expedited penalty agreement.

2. If the respondent does not agree to and sign the expedited penalty agreement, the department may notify the respondent that a formal civil penalty is under consideration. The department may then pursue formal enforcement action against the respondent in accordance with R.S. 30:2025(C), 2025(E), 2050.2, and 2050.3.

I. Required Documentation. The department shall not propose any expedited penalty agreement without an affidavit, inspection report, or other documentation to establish that the respondent has caused or allowed the violation to occur on the specified dates.

J. Evidentiary Requirements. Any expedited penalty agreement issued by the department shall notify the respondent of the evidence used to establish that the respondent has caused or allowed the violation to occur on the specified dates.

K. Public Enforcement List. The signed expedited penalty agreement is a final enforcement action of the department and shall be included on the public list of enforcement actions referenced in R.S. 30:2050.1(B)(1).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular R.S. 30:2025(D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 30:**.

§807. Types of Violations and Expedited Penalty Amounts

A. The types of violations listed in the following table may qualify for coverage under this Chapter; however, any violation listed below, which is identified in an expedited penalty agreement, must also meet the conditions set forth in LAC 33:I.805.E.

Expedited Penalties			
Violation	Citation	Amount	Frequency
ALL MEDIA			
Failure to provide timely notification for the unauthorized discharge of any material that exceeds the reportable quantity but does not cause an emergency condition	LAC 33.I.3917.A	\$300	per day
Failure to provide timely written notification for the unauthorized discharge of any material that exceeds the reportable quantity but does not cause an emergency condition	LAC 33:I.3925.A	\$300	per day
AIR QUALITY			
40 CFR Part 70 General Permit conditions (Part K, L, M, or R): failure to timely submit any applicable annual, semiannual, or quarterly reports	LAC 33:III.501.C.4	\$500	per occurrence
Failure to submit an Annual Criteria Pollutant Emissions Inventory in a timely and complete manner when applicable	LAC 33:III.919	\$500	per occurrence
Failure to submit an Annual Toxic Emissions Data Inventory in a timely and complete manner when applicable	LAC 33:III.5107	\$500	per occurrence
Stage II Vapor Recovery			
Note: LAC 33:III.2132 is only applicable to subject gasoline dispensing facilities in the parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and Pointe Coupee.			
Failure to have at least one person trained as required by the regulations	LAC 33:III.2132.C	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to post operating instructions on each pump	LAC 33:III.2132.E	\$100	per occurrence
Failure to maintain equipment	LAC 33:III.2132.F	\$100	per occurrence
Failure to tag defective equipment "out of order"	LAC 33:III.2132.F.3	\$500	per occurrence
Failure to maintain records on-site	LAC 33:III.2132.G	\$300	per inspection
Failure to use and/or diligently maintain, in proper working order, all air pollution control equipment installed at the site	LAC 33:III.905	\$100	per occurrence
SOLID WASTE			
Waste Tires			
Storage of more than 20 whole tires without authorization from the administrative authority	LAC 33:VII.10509.B	\$200	per occurrence
Transporting more than 20 tires without first obtaining a transporter authorization certificate	LAC 33:VII.10509.C	\$200	per occurrence
Storing tires for greater than 365 days	LAC 33:VII.10509.E	\$200	per occurrence

Expedited Penalties			
Violation	Citation	Amount	Frequency
Failure to maintain all required records for three years on-site or at an alternative site approved in writing by the administrative authority	LAC 33:VII.10509.G	\$200	per occurrence
Failure to obtain a waste tire generator identification number within 30 days of commencing business operations	LAC 33:VII.10519.A	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to accept one waste tire for every new tire sold unless the purchaser chooses to keep the waste tire	LAC 33:VII.10519.B	\$100	per occurrence
Failure to remit waste tire fees to the state on a monthly basis as specified	LAC 33:VII.10519.D	\$100	per occurrence
Failure to post required notifications to the public	LAC 33:VII.10519.E	\$100	per occurrence
Failure to list the waste tire fee on a separate line on the invoice so that no tax will be charged on the fee	LAC 33:VII.10519.F	\$100	per occurrence
Failure to keep waste tires or waste tire material covered as specified	LAC 33:VII.10519.H	\$200	per occurrence
Failure to segregate waste tires from new or used tires offered for sale	LAC 33:VII.10519.M	\$200	per occurrence
Failure to provide a manifest for all waste tire shipments containing more than 20 tires	LAC 33:VII.10533.A	\$200	per occurrence
Failure to maintain completed manifests for three years and have them available for inspection	LAC 33:VII.10533.D	\$200	per occurrence
Failure to collect appropriate waste tire fee for each new tire sold	LAC 33:VII.10519.C, 10535.B	\$200	per occurrence
WATER QUALITY			
Failure to properly operate and maintain a facility:			
1. Failing to provide disinfection at any applicable sewage treatment plant	LAC 33:IX.2701.E	\$200	per occurrence
2. Failing to operate/maintain backup or auxiliary systems within a treatment system	LAC 33:IX. 2701.E	\$200	per occurrence
3. Failing to implement adequate laboratory controls and quality assurance procedures	LAC 33:IX. 2701.E	\$200	per occurrence
4. Allowing excessive solids to accumulate within a treatment system	LAC 33:IX. 2701.E	\$200	per occurrence
5. Allowing sample holding times to expire before analyzing any sample and failing to follow approved methods when collecting and analyzing samples	LAC 33:IX. 2701.J.4	\$200	per occurrence
Failure to sample any permit parameter in accordance with an LPDES permit	LAC 33:IX. 2701.A	\$100	per permit parameter
Failure to submit Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs):			

Expedited Penalties			
Violation	Citation	Amount	Frequency
1. Failing to submit DMRs, for any outfall, required by any LPDES individual permit	LAC 33:IX. 2701.L.4.a	\$200	per submittal (per outfall)
2. Failing to submit DMRs, for any outfall, required by any LPDES general permit	LAC 33:IX. 2701.L.4.a	\$100	per submittal (per outfall)
Exceedance of LPDES permit effluent limitations:			
1. Exceeding the daily maximum or weekly average concentration permit limit for any qualifying permit parameter	LAC 33:IX. 2701.A	\$150	per permit parameter (per exceedance)
2. Exceeding a monthly average concentration permit limit for any qualifying permit parameter	LAC 33:IX. 2701.A	\$300	per permit parameter (per exceedance)
3. Exceeding a daily maximum or weekly average mass loading permit limit for any qualifying permit parameter	LAC 33:IX. 2701.A	\$200	per permit parameter (per exceedance)
4. Exceeding a monthly average mass loading permit limit for any qualifying permit parameter	LAC 33:IX. 2701.A	\$400	per permit parameter (per exceedance)
5. Discharging effluent outside of the permitted range for pH (grab samples only)	LAC 33:IX. 2701.A	\$150	per grab sample (per exceedance)
Failure to develop and/or implement a Spill Prevention and Control Plan (SPC):			
1. Failing to develop an SPC plan for any applicable facility	LAC 33:IX.905	\$500	per occurrence
2. Failing to implement any component of an SPC plan	LAC 33:IX.905	\$100	per occurrence
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS			
Failure to register existing or new USTs containing regulated substances	LAC 33:XI.301.A - B	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to certify and provide required information on the department's approved registration form	LAC 33:XI.301.B.1 - 2	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to notify the Office of Environmental Services, Permits Division within 30 days after selling a UST system or acquiring a UST system; failure to keep a current copy of the registration form on-site or at the nearest staffed facility	LAC 33:XI.301.C.1 - 3	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to provide corrosion protection to tanks and/or piping that routinely contain regulated substances using one of the specified methods	LAC 33:XI.303.A.1 - 2	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to provide spill and/or overfill prevention equipment as specified	LAC 33:XI.303.A.3	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to upgrade existing UST systems to new system standards as specified	LAC 33:XI.303.B	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to pay fees by the required date	LAC 33:XI.307.D	\$200	per occurrence

Expedited Penalties			
Violation	Citation	Amount	Frequency
Failure to report, investigate, and/or clean up any spills and overfills	LAC 33:XI.501.B	\$500	per occurrence
Failure to continuously operate and maintain corrosion protection to the metal components of portions of the tank and piping that routinely contain regulated substances and are in contact with the ground	LAC 33:XI.503.A	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to have UST systems equipped with cathodic protection systems inspected for proper operation as specified	LAC 33:XI.503.B	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to inspect UST systems with impressed current cathodic protection systems every 60 days to ensure that the equipment is running properly	LAC 33:XI.503.C	\$200	per occurrence
Failure to comply with recordkeeping requirements	LAC 33:XI.503.D	\$200	per occurrence
Failure to meet requirements for repairs to UST systems	LAC 33:XI.507	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to follow reporting requirements, maintain required information, and/or keep records at the UST site and make them immediately available or keep them at an alternative site and provide them within 24 hours after a request	LAC 33:XI.509	\$300	per occurrence
Failure to use a method or combination of methods of release detection described in LAC 33:XI.701 for all new or existing tank systems and/or failure to notify the Office of Environmental Compliance when a leak detection method indicates that a release may have occurred	LAC 33:XI.703.A.1 - 2	\$500	per occurrence
Failure to satisfy the additional requirements for petroleum UST systems as specified	LAC 33:XI.703.B	\$200	per occurrence
Failure to maintain release detection records	LAC 33:XI.705	\$100	per occurrence
Failure to report any suspected release to the Office of Environmental Compliance within 24 hours after becoming aware of the occurrence	LAC 33:XI.707	\$500	per occurrence

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2001 et seq., and in particular R.S. 30:2025(D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment, Environmental Planning Division, LR 30:**.